

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-594001/P12805

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection.

Specification

Several passages in the specification were objected to in the office action. Such passages have been amended as suggested.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 6, 15, 17, 26, and 27 have been objected to as allegedly containing ambiguous phrases. These claims have been amended as suggested.

35 USC § 112

Claims 8, 19, 26, and 30 have been objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. These claims have been amended as suggested.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8, 10-19, 21-30 have been rejected under 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rodwin in view of Fan and in

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-594001/P12805

view of Srisuresh. Additionally, claims 9 and 20 have been rejected under 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fan in view of Barkley. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites sending the determined access control list entry from a first computer on the network to a second computer on the network, and translating a public network address to the private network address for the user accessing the network resource after the access control list entry is sent. Claims 12 and 23 recite similar features.

Rodwin describes an arrangement in which a remote user may access a remote access device via a remote computer after entering a username and a password (see, inter alia, Rodwin col. 5, lines 10-19). This username is passed on by the remote access device over a network to a dynamic IP address assignment / management server (see, inter alia, Rodwin col. 5, lines 20-23). This server then dynamically assigns an IP address to the remote access device which in turn is sent to the remote computer (see, inter alia, Rodwin col. 5, lines 23-52). Thereafter, the remote computer can access the network via the assigned IP address (see, inter alia, Rodwin col. 5, lines 48-53). Rodwin is silent as to the component that conducts the authentication and does not mention or suggest the use of a an access control list.

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-594001/P12805

Fan describes an arrangement in which a firewall determines whether a current packet meets certain authorization criteria which may take the form of ACL items (see, inter alia, Fan col. 9, lines 16-23). If such criteria is met, the packet is either passed on to the destination (see, inter alia, Fan col. 9, lines 32-40). With Fan, the firewall acts as the sole network device that provides or blocks packet traffic.

Srisuresh describes an arrangement in which each computer on a stub network is assigned a source IP address that only has a local significance (see, inter alia, Srisuresh col. 5, lines 51-52). When a computer transmits data external to the stub network, a stub router maps the respective source IP address to one of the network's available unique IP addresses before forwarding packets to a service provider router (see, inter alia, Srisuresh col. 5, lines 51-52). If a reply should come back, an office router translates a destination IP address (which corresponds to the assigned unique IP address) back to the originating computer (see, inter alia, Srisuresh col. 6, lines 1-7). Srisuresh describes routing data from a network that contains more nodes than unique IP addresses. It does not discuss providing or blocking access to a user.

The skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine Rodwin, Fan, and Srisuresh to result in the subject matter of claims 1, 12, and 23. Srisuresh describes a network

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-594001/P12805

address translation scheme for a private network. Srisuresh does not contemplate limiting access to remote users, but rather, simply describes a packet routing technique. As the nature of the problem to be solved by Srisuresh differs greatly from that of Rodwin and Fan, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine these references. Moreover, there are no teachings within Rodwin or Fan (or in the general knowledge of a skilled artisan) that would suggest combining these references with Srisuresh, as Rodwin already describes an arrangement in which IP addresses may be assigned to a remote network device.

Even if Rodwin, Fan, and Srisuresh were combined, such references fail to teach the features defined by claims 1, 12, and 23. In particular, none of the references contemplate an arrangement in which a determined access control list entry is sent from a first computer to a second computer between the user and the network resource before allowing or blocking the user access.

Fan states that a router may also include a firewall (see, inter alia, Fan col. 4, lines 45-47). It does not contemplate having a separate router and firewall. However, even if such network components were separated, Fan would still not teach sending a determined access control list entry from a first computer to a second computer on the network between the user

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-594001/P12805

and the network as the router of Fan acts to direct incoming and outgoing traffic. There is no suggestion that such a router could act to block or permit access to a network resource. As a result, there would be no reason for an access control list entry to be sent by the router to the firewall of Fan (or vice versa).

Accordingly, claims 1, 12, 23, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

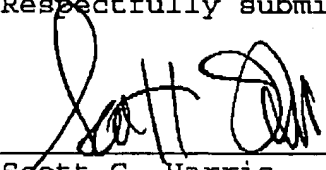
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-594001/P12805

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply
any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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